

Message Text

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43/44

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-10 USSS-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

SCS-03 SCA-01 OC-06 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

SS-15 NSCE-00 EUR-25 CCO-00 A-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIE-00

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3965

AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3051

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR EG

SUBJECT: ARRANGEMENTS FOR POSSIBLE DEPARTURE OF AMERICAN
TOURISTS IN EGYPT

REF: STATE 199752; ATHENS 7011; CAIRO 3046

1. LATEST INFORMATION REGARDING PLANS TO REMOVE TOURISTS
FROM EGYPT INDICATES BUS TO BENGHAZI PLAN IS LOSING FAVOR
AMONG TOUR AGENTS, TOURISTS, AND WEST EUROPEAN EMBASSIES.

MAJOR REASONS: (A) CONFUSING AND SLOW ORGANIZATION BY
GOE MINISTRY OF TOURISM. (LAST WORD IS FIRST BUS TO
BENGHAZI WILL LEAVE 6:00 A.M. SUNDAY.) (B) UNCERTAIN
COOPERATION FROM LIBYAN EMBASSY REGARDING VISAS. (C)
UNCERTAINTY ABOUT EVENTUAL TREATMENT IN LIBYA. (D) RUMORS
THAT GOE UNABLE TO PROVIDE BUSES AND/OR AIRCRAFT OUT OF
BENGHAZI BECAUSE OF MILITARY REQUIREMENTS.

2. BOAT ALTERNATIVE PICKING UP FAVOR. EGYPT FLAG "SYRIA"
DEPARTED ALEXANDRIA FOR PIRAEUS TODAY. EGYPT FLAG "ALGIERS"
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FULLY BOOKED FOR DEPARTURE NEXT SUNDAY. "SYRIA" DUE TO

DEPART ALEXANDRIA AGAIN FOR PIRAEUS ON OCTOBER 18. AS
YET NO OTHER SHIPS ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART EGYPT. IT
APPEARS THAT THE FRENCH HAVE SUCCEEDED IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS
FOR A FRENCH SHIP TO REMOVE 1200 TOURISTS FROM EEC COUNTRIES.
BELGIAN SAYS THERE ARE ABOUT 1200 EEG TOURISTS IN EGYPT.
WE HAVE NOT BEEN ASKED TO PARTICIPATE. FRENCH SHIP PLAN-
NING TO ARRIVE AND DEPART SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14.

3. AMERICAN TOURISTS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY IRATE
ABOUT BEING TRAPPED HERE. A FEW HAVE SAID THEY EXPERIENCED
HOSTILITY FROM EGYPTIANS WHO BELIEVE THE US IS OR IS ABOUT
TO SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH NEW WEAPONS.

4. IN VIEW OF UNCERTAIN PROSPECTS FOR WELL-EXECUTED AND
PROMPT BUS TO BENGHAZI ARRANGEMENT AND STRONG DESIRE BY
MANY AMERICAN TOURISTS TO DEPART BY BOAT AND DEVELOPING
PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS, WE URGENTLY REQUEST
DEPARTMENT AND ATHENS TO ARRANPS FOR SHIP TRANSPORTATION
ADEQUATE FOR APPROXIMATELY 500 AMERICAN TOURISTS. CON-
FIRMATION OF AVAILABILITY NEEDED SOONEST; OTHERWISE WE
WILL HAVE SERIOUS PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM WITH OUR TOURISTS.
BENGHAZI MAY WORK, BUT WE NEED THE BACK-UP AND WILL SHIFT
EMPHASIS TO THIS OBVIOUSLY MORE DESIRABLE MEANS IF EARLY
DEPARTURE CAN BE ARRANGED.
SMITH

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